

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus as set forth in claim 1~~ A power amplifier comprising:
a first amplification circuit connected at an output terminal thereof to one end of a load and
for making noninverting-amplification of an input signal;
a second amplification circuit connected at an output terminal thereof to an other end of the load
and for making inverting-amplification of an input signal;
deviation detecting means for detecting a deviation between potentials at the output
terminals of the first and second amplification circuits; and
operation stopping means which works according to a deviation detection output from the deviation
detecting means to stop the first and second amplification circuits from operating, wherein:
the first amplification circuit includes:
first pulse width modulation means for converting the input signal into a first pulse width
modulation signal whose pulse width corresponds to a quantization level of the input signal, and
a first switching circuit for performing a switching operation, according to a drive pulse
from the first pulse width modulation means, wherein the output terminal thereof is connected to
one end of the load; and
the second amplification circuit includes:

second pulse width modulation means for converting the input signal into a second pulse width modulation signal whose pulse width corresponds to two's complement of the quantization level of the input signal, and

a second switching circuit for performing a switching operation, according to a drive pulse from the second pulse width modulation means, wherein the output terminal thereof is connected to the other end of the load.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the operation stopping means, based on the deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means, stops supplying a source voltage to at least any one of the first and second pulse width modulation means, and first and second switching circuits.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the operation stopping means, based on the deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means, stops the first and/or second pulse width modulation means from outputting a pulse width modulation signal.

5. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus as set forth in claim 1~~ A power amplifier comprising:
a first amplification circuit connected at an output terminal thereof to one end of a load and
for making noninverting-amplification of an input signal;
a second amplification circuit connected at an output terminal thereof to an other end of the load
and for making inverting-amplification of an input signal;

deviation detecting means for detecting a deviation between potentials at the output terminals of the first and second amplification circuits; and
operation stopping means which works according to a deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means to stop the first and second amplification circuits from operating, wherein:

the first amplification circuit includes:

first pulse width modulation means for converting the input signal into a first pulse width modulation signal whose pulse width corresponds to a quantization level of the input signal,

first driving means for converting the first pulse width modulation signal output from the first pulse width modulation means into a first pair of drive pulses whose levels are opposite to each other, and

a first push-pull circuit formed from a first pair of switching elements pushpull-connected to each other, the first pair of switching elements being supplied with the first pair of drive pulses from the first driving means, and the first push-pull circuit being connected at an output terminal thereof to one end of a load; and

the second amplification circuit includes:

second pulse width modulation means for converting the input signal into a second pulse width modulation signal whose pulse width corresponds to two's complement of the quantization level of the input signal,

second driving means for converting the second pulse width modulation signal output from the second pulse width modulation means into a second pair of drive pulses whose levels are opposite to each other, and

a second push-pull circuit formed from a second pair of switching elements pushpull-connected to each other, the second pair of switching elements being supplied with the second pair of drive pulses from the second driving means, and the second push-pull circuit being connected at an output terminal thereof to an other end of a load.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the operation stopping means, based on the deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means, stops supplying a source voltage to the first and/or second pulse width modulation means.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the operation stopping means, based on the deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means, stops the first and/or second pulse width modulation means from outputting a pulse width modulation signal.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the operation stopping means, based on the deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means, stops the first and/or second driving means from outputting the pair of drive pulses.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the operation stopping means, based on the deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means, stops supplying a source voltage to the first and/or second amplification circuit.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus as set forth in claim 10~~ A power amplifier comprising:

a first amplification circuit connected at an output terminal thereof to one end of a load and for making noninverting-amplification of an input signal;

a second amplification circuit connected at an output terminal thereof to an other end of the load and for making inverting-amplification of an input signal;

deviation detecting means for detecting a deviation between potentials at the output terminals of the first and second amplification circuits; and

disconnecting means for working according to a deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means to disconnect the load from an output terminal, wherein:

the first amplification circuit includes:

first pulse width modulation means for converting the input signal into a first pulse width modulation signal whose pulse width corresponds to a quantization level of the input signal, and

a first switching circuit for performing a switching operation, according to a drive pulse from the first pulse width modulation means, wherein the output terminal thereof is connected to one end of the load; and

the second amplification circuit includes:

second pulse width modulation means for converting the input signal into a second pulse width modulation signal whose pulse width corresponds to two's complement of the quantization level of the input signal, and

a second switching circuit for performing a switching operation, according to a drive pulse from the second pulse width modulation means, wherein the output terminal thereof is connected to the other end of the load.

12. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus as set forth in claim 10~~ A power amplifier comprising:

a first amplification circuit connected at an output terminal thereof to one end of a load and for making noninverting-amplification of an input signal;

a second amplification circuit connected at an output terminal thereof to an other end of the load and for making inverting-amplification of an input signal;

deviation detecting means for detecting a deviation between potentials at the output terminals of the first and second amplification circuits; and

disconnecting means for working according to a deviation detection output from the deviation detecting means to disconnect the load from an output terminal, wherein:

the first amplification circuit includes:

first pulse width modulation means for converting the input signal into a first pulse width modulation signal whose pulse width corresponds to a quantization level of the input signal,

first driving means for converting the first pulse width modulation signal output from the first pulse width modulation means into a first pair of drive pulses whose levels are opposite to each other, and

a first push-pull circuit formed from a first pair of switching elements pushpull-connected to each other, the first pair of switching elements being supplied with the first pair of drive pulses from

the first driving means, and the first push-pull circuit being connected at an output terminal thereof to one end of a load; and

the second amplification circuit includes:

second pulse width modulation means for converting the input signal into a second pulse width modulation signal whose pulse width corresponds to two's complement of the quantization level of the input signal,

second driving means for converting the second pulse width modulation signal output from the second pulse width modulation means into a second pair of drive pulses whose levels are opposite to each other, and

a second push-pull circuit formed from a second pair of switching elements pushpull-connected to each other, the second pair of switching elements being supplied with the second pair of drive pulses from the second driving means, and the second push-pull circuit being connected at an output terminal thereof to an other end of a load.